

EASTER THOUGHTS
FOR OUR MEMBERS

Dear children of the Club:

The first month of spring is here, and I suppose the children of the club are beginning to look forward to Easter holiday, which will come late enough this year for the flowers to bloom and the sun to shine for the pleasure of holiday makers.

I know the club will be pleased at the award of prizes for February, for Master Payson Bruce and Miss Louise Kennedy, by their contributions during months past, have done a great deal to make the children's page bright and attractive. Both of these young people are very talented, and when they have attained distinction in years to come, they can look at medals bestowed in 1905 and say: "I won my first laurels when I was a member of The Times-Dispatch Children's Club." And the editor and the other members will be proud indeed.

A TRIP TO THE MOON.

I wanted to go to see the moon to see how it looked, but I did not know how to get there, so I went to see old Mother Goose, and borrowed her broom stick. Then I went to see if I could find some one to go with me. I found Miss Bonduant and asked her would she like to go with me.

"Oh! how I should like to go there!" she cried, and she and the dear old man, what a lot of things he must have to talk about, for he has looked down at the world so long that he must have seen plenty of strange sights.

"Well, if you wish to see the man in the moon, come along. Let us borrow Mother Goose's broomstick and off we will go. It's a long way and you must hold on tight."

We waved our hands to Mother Goose and mounted the stick. We mounted so quickly that the clouds we passed through looked as if they were falling and the sky began to look so near that we were afraid we would bump our heads.

We saw some things which seemed to us light, fleecy clouds floating along before the wind, as we have seen clouds do on a windy day. I will tell you what the moon is made of. It is made of the very finest quality of green cheese. Now, we are at the moon. Now, step off carefully, or you will fall into one of the pits the moon goblins have made in digging cheese. We are actually at the moon at last. What a wonderful sight! As far as we can see in every direction there are miles upon miles of cheese. As we come near we see in front of a large hole in the side of the mountain, shaped like a door, an enormous man. We thought he must be at least fifty feet high. He was dressed in a long brown coat, which reached to his knees; on his legs were long blue stockings. His head was very large, forming at least one-third of his whole height. He was sitting down on a great heap of cheese, having his dinner, and to show you what a very extraordinary man he was, he was eating the front of his own house. "Hallo! What brings you here?" It isn't often that I have the pleasure of speaking to any Earth children. Come here and let me shake hands with you. He shook hands with me, and then he shook hands with my hand in his mighty hand and shook them warmly. We returned to earth, and we had a very nice trip. What do you think worries us now? Why, this! How the moon stays up there without falling down.

THOMAS MOSELEY PRATT, Buckingham, Va.

VIRGINIA.

Virginia lies on the eastern coast of the United States, midway between Maine and Florida. The Atlantic Ocean washes the eastern coast for a distance of 120 miles. Virginia ranks thirtieth among the States of the Union in size; in population, fifteenth. The greatest natural wonder in the State is the Natural Bridge over Cedar Creek, in Rockbridge county. Its height is 215 feet. Within a short distance of the bridge is the Isabella Stairway, a natural underground, flight of stone steps. The staircase begins in a beautiful cavern and winds upward under numerous arches for a distance of 400 or 500 feet, opening at last to a well watered as the State of Virginia. The State of Virginia measures about 42,450 square miles; 2,325 square miles being water. The State contains twenty-five and one-half million acres of land, about one-third of which is cultivated. The production of Virginia is 1,655,000. Virginia is very rich in minerals and is noted for the variety and beauty of its building stones. The principal metals are gold, silver, iron, copper, lead, zinc and plumbago. Virginia has public free schools of the first magnitude, supported by taxation and are controlled by the State Board of Education. Virginia, often called "The Old Dominion," was settled by people from England. The State was named in honor of the English Queen Elizabeth, who was called "The Virgin Queen." The first permanent settlement was made at Jamestown on an island in James River in 1607. Richmond was founded by Colonel William Byrd in the year 1737 and became the capital of the State in 1779. The population is 51,888. Norfolk is next to the largest city in Virginia. The population is 54,571.

By MARY W. PRATT, Buckingham, Va.

ISABEL'S DREAM.

Isabel was sitting in a big arm chair before the open grate with her arithmetic in her hand. She did not seem to be thinking about her sums. She could think of nothing but fairyland. While she was thinking she heard a rustle and in a moment a tiny voice whispered in her ear:

"Little girl, would you like to visit fairyland?"

Isabel was too much astonished to reply, but the fairy seemed to take it for granted that she wished to go. On and on they sped until at last they reached a large airy place where the birds were singing and dancing, oranges, peaches and apples hung from the trees. There were many more white-winged fairies flitting about in the air. One of them took Isabel by the hand and led her to a cool green fountain. They took a plunge and returned very much refreshed.

"Now, we must go back to dinner," said the fairy.

"Yes; there goes the bell," answered Isabel.

"No, dear; it is the song, striking ten, and it is time for you to be in bed," said mamma, stooping over her.

By LOUISE KENNEDY, Richmond, Va.

DOING HIS DUTY.

Once upon a time there lived a man in Virginia by the name of Matthew Lewis. He was a drunkard, and took very little care of his family.

One day Matthew was walking along the road thinking of how bad he was treating his family. He met John Jones, somewhat unexpectedly, who said, "Matthew, do you know you are neglecting your duty?" Matthew was somewhat astonished, as he began to think that John knew what he was thinking about. He did not make any answer, and John continued, "Do you know that every drink you take would make your wife and children happy, if you would take that money which you were going to pay for the

FINE DRAWING BY T. D. C. C. MEMBERS



LOUISE KENNEDY, Richmond, Va. TOMMY, Richmond, Va.

THE PUZZLE DEPARTMENT

Cherry Tree Puzzle.

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